

Strong Chelsea hit back in second half

By STUART EARP Wycombe Wanderers 1, Chelsea XI 2

SECOND Division Chelsea sent down a strong team to Loakes Park for Tuesday night's friendly against Wycombe Wanderers and with an impressive second half performance, ran out deserved winners.

No less than eight members of the Chelsea side had first team experience including goalkeeper John Phillips, a Welsh international and much travelled striker Tommy Baldwin.

Wanderers took the opportunity of giving most of the squad men a run out. Fielding a stronger side in the first half, they were leading 1-0 at the interval through a Howard Kennedy goal but the Blues' numerous second half changes saw the visitors gradually take over control.

Wycombe, who included local newcomer Alan Davies in midfield, went ahead after only four minutes with a fine goal. Bruce Macrae began the move by finding Derek Harris and his flick inside was driven home by Kennedy on the half volley.

Keith Mead cleared off the line from Tom Finneston soon afterwards following a fine run and cross by Baldwin and Finneston had the ball in the net seconds later but the effort was ruled out by local referee Jim Atkins.

With both sides playing attractive football, Phillips saved well from Harris while Sparrow and Tommy Langley went close at the other end.

Making three second half changes, Wycombe lost their cohesion after the interval while Chelsea went from strength to strength. Playing lightning fast one-tuos to set up scoring chances, they put the home side under real pressure and after

Peter Spittle had saved brilliantly from Baldwin's point blank header, he watched the ball thud against the upright from Sparrow's 30 yard drive.

A long cross from Graham Wilkins, headed on by Lewington, gave Finneston the chance to roll the ball home for Chelsea's equaliser after 67 minutes and three minutes later Baldwin laid the ball perfectly into Paul Walker's path for the winger to drive home just inside the far post.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye (sub D. Alexander 45 mins); K. Mead (sub D. Bullock 79 mins); J. Delaney, R. Eaton; H. Kennedy (sub G. Mackenzie 45 mins); D. Cotterell, A. Davies; D. Harris (sub G. Anthony 45 mins); B. Macrae, P. Sussons.

CHELSEA: J. Phillips; G. Wilkins, J. Perkins, M. Hinton, J. Sparrow (sub R. Brolley 76 mins); P. Walker, R. Lewington, T. Finneston, B. Bason; T. Langley (sub R. Frost 76 mins); T. Baldwin.

Referee: J. Atkins (H. Wycombe).

Half time: 1-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe - Kennedy (4), Chelsea - Finneston (67), Walker (70).

Official attendance: 850.